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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Norfolk, Virginia – Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced that Jason Van Steenburg, age 47, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, was sentenced today in U.S. District Court in Norfolk, Virginia, to 72 months imprisonment and fined \$15,000.00 for attempting to mail child pornography by computer. He had pled guilty to the charge in November 2002.

In January 2002, a Washington State Trooper received a “Cybertip” from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and began investigating “Eric2”. Subsequent investigation and review of email communications revealed that Van Steenburg was attempting to distribute video tapes involving the sexual exploitation of minor pre-pubescent boys having sex with adults to “Eric2”. The information was forwarded to the Virginia State Police and the Norfolk FBI who executed a search warrant on Van Steenburg’s residence on April 3, 2002.

Following execution of the search warrant, Van Steenburg stated that he been viewing and collecting child pornography for four years and had attempted to distribute child pornography movies to “Eric2”. Forensic examination of Van Steenburg’s computers revealed his possession of in excess of 8,000 child pornography images and movies.

Mr. McNulty stated: “Child pornographers are not only depraved and violent criminals, they are predators. This case demonstrates our commitment to prosecute aggressively those who prey upon the most vulnerable members of our society - our children.”

The investigation was conducted by agents working with the Washington State Police, the Virginia State Police and the Norfolk Federal Bureau of Investigations. Assistant United States Attorney Arenda L. Wright Allen handled the case.